

## Annually 22.8 million Work Suffer Occupational Injuries, 18,970 Die Due to Excessive Heat : ILO Report

- The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** reported in "**Ensuring safety and health at work in a changing climate**" that annually, **22.85 million occupational injuries, 18,970 deaths, and 2.09 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs)** are attributed to excessive heat.
- **Key findings from the report include:**
  - Workers in hot rural regions, particularly in the Americas, Africa, the Middle East, and India, are experiencing irreversible kidney failure due to excessive heat.
  - Epidemics of chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDu) are prevalent among workers engaged in heavy manual labor in high-temperature environments.
  - An estimated 26.2 million people were living with chronic kidney disease in 2020 as a result of exposure to excessive heat in the workplace.
  - Over 70% of all workers, approximately 2.41 billion individuals, are exposed to excessive heat, representing a 34.7% increase from 2000 to 2020.

## State of the Climate in Asia 2023 Report

- The **World Meteorological Organization** released a report highlighting significant climate-related events in 2023
- **Highlight of the report**
  - Asia witnessed 79 extreme climate disasters, affecting over nine million people.
  - Asia and the Pacific experienced the highest number of disasters globally.
  - Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide reached record levels in 2022.
  - Oceans absorbed 25% of man-made carbon dioxide emissions between 1960 and 2021, with ocean heat content reaching a record high in 2023.
  - Tropical cyclone activity in the North Indian Ocean slightly exceeded average levels.
  - Asia recorded its second-highest mean temperature, with Japan and Kazakhstan reporting record warmth.
  - Glaciers continued to retreat rapidly, particularly in the East Himalayas and Central Asia's Tian Shan mountains.

## Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi scheme

- **Launch Year** – 1997
- **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare
- **Central sponsored scheme**
- **Three Components of the scheme:**
  - (i) Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)( financial aid for treating life-threatening diseases like heart, kidney, and liver ailments, offering up to 15 lakhs)
  - (ii) Health Minister's cancer Patients Fund (HMCPF) (Maximum Assistance 15 Lakhs)
  - (iii) Scheme for financial assistance to patients suffering from specified rare diseases. (maximum of 20 lakhs)
- **Objective - Providing Financial Assistance To The Patients Who Live Under The Poverty Line** (provide one-time financial aid to impoverished patients residing below the poverty line, as per the State or Union Territory-defined thresholds, who are afflicted by life-threatening illnesses.)
- **Eligibility** –
  - Exclude Ayushman Bharat Beneficiaries – PMJAY
  - All BPL Families except govt servants
  - Treatment in government hospital only

## Extreme weather events with prolonged geo-political tensions may pose a risk to inflation: RBI Bulletin

- **Real GDP Growth Trend:**
  - RBI's April bulletin anticipates an extension of the trend upshift in real GDP growth.
  - Strong investment demand and positive business/consumer sentiments support this outlook.
- **CPI Inflation Dynamics:**
  - CPI inflation settled at 4.9% in March, down from a two-month average of 5.1%.
- **Impact of Food and Fuel Prices on Inflation:**
  - Reduction in the impact of food shocks on core inflation over time.
  - Recent increase in the impact of fuel shocks.
  - Second-round effects of food/fuel inflation on headline inflation subdued after inflation targeting adoption.
- **Analysis of Foreign Exchange Reserves:**
  - Examines India's foreign exchange reserve trends during high-volatility episodes.
  - Highlights RBI's success in containing rupee volatility and maintaining stability in forex markets.
  - Rupee volatility remains lowest among major emerging and advanced economies, even during the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

## Phi-3-mini

- **Microsoft** has introduced **Phi-3-mini**, a lightweight artificial intelligence model, aiming to broaden its customer base with cost-effective solutions. This release marks the debut of three compact language models, underscoring the company's strategic focus on leveraging transformative technology to redefine global work practices

## SBI Card introduces inaugural travel-centric core credit card 'MILES'

- SBI Card has launched its new travel-focused core credit card, named 'SBI Card MILES.' This card offers various travel benefits, such as converting Travel Credits to Air Miles and Hotel Points, increased rewards on travel bookings, and access to airport lounges. Additionally, SBI Card has collaborated with over 20 prominent airline and hotel brands.

## Razorpay Launches UPI Switch With Airtel Payments Bank

- Razorpay, a leading fintech company, has partnered with Airtel Payments Bank to introduce its UPI infrastructure service called **UPI Switch**.
- This collaboration allows Airtel Payments Bank to utilize Razorpay's UPI Switch service for managing UPI transactions on its platform. The solution boasts the capability to handle up to 10,000 transactions per second (TPS).

## World Energy Leadership Awards 2024

- **Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber**, President of the **28th Conference of the Parties (COP28)** to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**), was honored with the Global Energy Transition Impact Award on April 22, 2024, for his exemplary leadership in driving forward the global energy transition.

## India's Largest Climate Clock Unveiled at CSIR HQ New Delhi for Earth Day Celebration

### World Earth Day

- **Celebrated on April 22**
- **1st observed in 1970 in the US** when 20 million took to the streets to protest against environmental degradation.
- In 2009, UN designated Earth Day as **International Mother Earth Day**.
- Earth Day is now observed in 192 countries, and coordinated by the nonprofit Earthday.org.
- **Theme 2024 - "Planet vs. Plastics."**
- It calls for an end to all plastic waste by demanding a **60% reduction in production of plastics by 2040**.